Third Senate Meeting of the 2015-2016 Session

Senate held its third meeting of the 2015-16 session on February 8, with President Vaccarino presiding as Chair. Key points from the meeting include:

- Provost and Vice President Academic Dr. Charlotte Yates provided words of tribute in honour of assistant vice-president (institutional research and planning) and registrar Brian Pettigrew, who will retire mid-February after a 40 year career at the University of Guelph.
- Dr. Yates also provided presentations on Key Performance Indicators for the University of Guelph, and on the initial assumptions for the 2016-17 University budget. These presentations and more information on this year’s budget development process are available online on the Budget Development [1] website.
- The Strategic Renewal Project Management Team presented an update on the strategic renewal process and feedback received to date. Senators were invited to comment and were advised that a draft of the renewed plan will be presented to Senate and the Board of Governors at the last meetings of the year.
- Senators were reminded that the Senate elections are coming up. Members were invited to nominate good candidates.
- Changes to the process for submission of graduate student progress reports were returned to the Board of Graduate Studies for further consideration.

A number of items were approved or received for information, including:

- The Senate meeting dates for 2016-17
- Revisions to the bylaws of the Board of Undergraduate Studies: specifically, changes to the Guelph-Humber curriculum and program committee compositions and membership
- Changes to the MSc in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Graduate faculty appointments
- Approval of a new Graduate Diploma in Accounting
- Notice of changes to some Senate award and medal guidelines
- The graduate Admissions & Progress Report for 2014-15
- Quality Review Reports for the School of Languages and Literatures, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the School of Hospitality, Food, and Tourism Management, and the Bachelor of Science degree program

The next Senate meeting is Monday, April 4, 2016. It will include the presentation of the proposed 2016-17 University budget for commentary and advice to the Board of Governors from Senate prior to its presentation to the Board for approval.

Fun Fact: In 2007, Senate revised its composition and membership with the result that Senate membership shrank by about one-third: from 216 members to its current membership of 163.